United States Environmental Protection Agency

Company Seeks Permit for Underground Waste Disposal

Team Completions LLC
Kalkaska, Michigan March 2010

Public meetings rescheduled

EPA will hold two public meetings regarding its proposal to approve a request from Team Completions LLC for a permit to inject non-hazardous liquid waste deep underground.

The first meeting is an informal session where you will be able to talk with EPA officials and ask questions.

The open house will be followed by a formal public hearing. At this hearing, you can make oral comments or submit a written statement for the record.

Wednesday, April 21
Public Meeting – 6 to 7 p.m.
Public Hearing – 7 to 8:30 p.m.

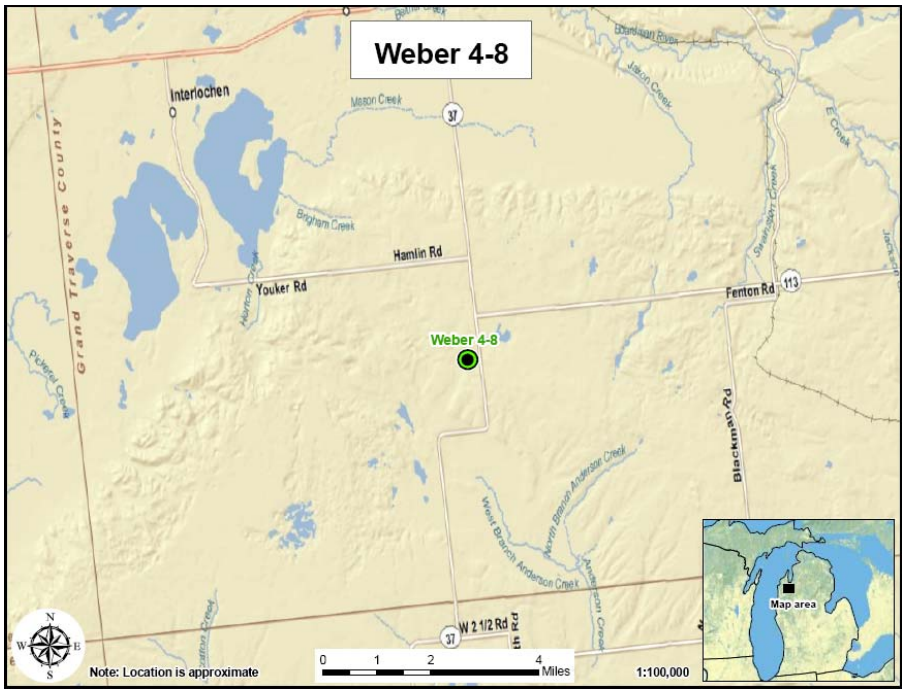
St. Mary's of Hannah Catholic School, 2912 W. M-113, Kingsley

Comments welcome

EPA encourages comments from the public on this proposal. The comment period closes **May 5**.

Submit comments in writing to:
Rebecca Harvey
Water Division (WU-16J)
EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590
312-886-6594
harvey.rebecca@epa.gov

You may call Region 5 toll-free, 800-621-8431, weekdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Or visit:
www.epa.gov/region5/water/uic/uicpub.htm.



This map shows the location of the proposed Weber 4-8 underground injection well.

Team Completions LLC would be allowed to inject non-hazardous liquid waste deep beneath the earth's surface if U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 approves the company's request for a permit.

The company currently operates a commercial underground injection well – the Weber 4-8 well – in which they dispose of brine from oil and gas wells. Team Completions wants to inject what is known as "leachate," non-hazardous liquid waste from a landfill, into the Weber 4-8 well in addition to the brine.

After reviewing the request, EPA found, based upon available information, that the proposed injection well should not endanger an underground sources of drinking water. EPA categorizes the well as a Class I commercial non-hazardous injection well. EPA must provide the public with an opportunity to comment on EPA's draft decision and all comments must be taken into consideration (see box, left) before the Agency makes a final decision.

If approved, the permit is good for 10 years. Team Completions must apply for a renewal every 10 years, and show that the well continues to meet all mechanical integrity and permit requirements for a Class I well.

Technical information

Geology:

An underground source of drinking water, or USDW, is defined as any aquifer or portion thereof which contains less than 10,000 mg/L of total dissolved solids and is being used, or can be used, as a source of drinking water. The Safe Drinking Water Act specifically mandates regulation of the underground injection of fluids through wells to assure that the quality of the underground sources of drinking water is protected.

The injection zone is in the Traverse Limestone from 1,750 feet to 2,200 feet below the surface. The immediate overlying confining zone is the Coldwater Shale and Antrim Shale, which is composed of shale. Multiple confining layers exist between the injection zones and the base of the lowermost USDW, which has been identified at approximately 781 feet below the surface. This water-bearing formation is the base of the Glacial Drift.

Class I wells must be in areas that are geologically suitable. Team Completions provided geologic, hydrologic and geochemical information to show that the facility is located at a geologically suitable site.

Area of Review:
All Class I wells have an "area of review." In this case, Team Completions used an area that extends two miles from its well. If there are other wells in the area of review that reach the injection zone, waste under pressure could contaminate supplies of drinking water by moving up through a well near the injection site, or through an abandoned well that was improperly plugged.
It has been determined that multiple wells within the area are improperly plugged or constructed. In order to ensure that the injection fluids will not migrate into underground sources of drinking water through these wells, a safe maximum injection rate of 73 gallons per minute was calculated. This value is based on the distance to the closest improperly plugged or constructed well.

Well operational parameters

Maximum Injection Pressure:
The proposed permitted maximum injection pressure will be determined based on a step-rate test or injectivity test after a final permit is issued.

Financial Assurance:
Team Completions has demonstrated adequate financial responsibilities to close, plug and abandon this underground injection operation. A state bond of $30,000 has been established for this purpose with Northwestern Bank.

Permit Processs

The process for underground injection control (UIC) permit applications is:

- Submittal of the permit application to EPA.
- Review of the permit application for completeness.
- Possible letter(s) for additional information.
- Technical review of the permit application.
- Possible letter(s) for additional information.
- Preliminary decision on application approval.
- Public notice of the draft permit decision.
- Possible public hearing.
- Response to comments.
- Final decision.

More information available

You may view the Administrative Record, including all data submitted by Team Completions, at

Traverse Area District Library
610 Woodmere
Traverse City

You may view related documents at the Region 5 office in Chicago. If you wish to visit the office, contact:

William Bates
Permit Writer
312-886-6110
bates.wiliam@epa.gov

Right to appeal

To preserve your right to appeal any final permit decision, you must either send EPA written comments or participate in a public hearing – if one is held. The first appeal must be made to the environmental Appeals Board. You may not seek legal action until all agency review procedures have been exhausted.